1	TERRY GODDARD Attorney General Firm Bar No. 14000
3	
4	STEPHEN A. WOLF Assistant Attorney General State Bar No. 018722
5	1275 W. Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2926
6	Tel: (602) 542-7027 Fax: (602) 364-3202
7	Attorneys for Arizona Medical Board
. 8	BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD
9	
10	In the Matter of:
11	JERI B. HASSMAN, M.D.) Board Case No. MD-01-0608
12	Holder of License No. 16132) CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine) DECREE OF CENSURE In the State of Arizona,) AND PROBATION
13)
14	Respondent.)
15	RECITALS
16	In the interest of a prompt and judicious settlement of this case, consistent with the
17	public interest, statutory requirements and responsibilities of the Arizona Medial Board
18	("Arizona Board"), and pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-1401 et seq. and 41-1092.07(F)(5), the
19	undersigned party, Jeri B. Hassman, M.D. ("Respondent"), holder of License No. 16132 to
20	practice allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona, and the Board enter into the following
21	Recitals, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Consent Agreement") as the
22	final disposition of this matter.
23	1. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement as set forth
24	herein, and has had the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney or
25	has waived the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney. Respondent

voluntarily enters into this Consent Agreement for the purpose of avoiding the expense and

uncertainty of an administrative hearing.

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- 2. Respondent understands that she has a right to a public administrative hearing concerning each and every allegation set forth in the above-captioned matter, at which administrative hearing she could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Respondent freely and voluntarily relinquishes all rights to such an administrative hearing, as well as all rights of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review or any other administrative and/or judicial action, concerning the matters set forth herein. Respondent affirmatively agrees that this Consent Agreement shall be irrevocable.
- 3. Respondent agrees that the Board may adopt this Consent Agreement, or any part thereof, pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-1401 et seq. and 41-1092.07(F)(5). Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement, or any part thereof, may be considered in any future disciplinary action against her.
- 4. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of other matters currently pending before the Board, if any, and does not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigation, action or proceeding. Respondent also understands that acceptance of this Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision or officer of this state from instituting other civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Consent Agreement.
- 5. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that, upon signing this Consent Agreement and returning it to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke her acceptance of this Consent Agreement or make any modifications to it, regardless of whether this Consent Agreement has been issued by the Executive Director. Any modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing.

6. Respondent understands that the foregoing Consent Agreement shall n			
become effective unless and until adopted by the Board and signed by its Executiv			
Director.			
7. Respondent understands and agrees that if the Board does not adopt the			
Consent Agreement, she will not assert as a defense that the Board's consideration of the			
Consent Agreement constitutes bias, prejudice, prejudgment or other similar defense.			
8. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement is a public record th			
may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board, and shall be reported			
required by law to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the Healthcare Integrity at			
Protection Data Bank.			
9. Respondent understands that any violation of this Consent Agreeme			
constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(24)(r)(violating a form			
order, probation, consent agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the board or			
executive director under the provisions of this chapter) and may result in disciplinary action			
pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1451.			
DATED: 3/9/04 Jen B. Hassman, M.D.			
Reviewed and Approved as to Form:			
By: Dan Cavett, Esq.			
FINDINGS OF FACT			
1. The parties stipulate that this Consent Agreement represents a compromise			
a disputed matter between the Arizona Board and Respondent, and agree to the entry of the Consent Order for the purpose of terminating that disputed matter.			
ii Consent Older for the durdose of terminating that this quet matter.			

- 2. The Arizona Board is the duly constituted authority for licensing and regulating the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
- 3. Respondent is the holder of License No. 16132 for the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
- 4. The Board initiated case number MD-01-0608 on or about August, 2001 after receiving complaints from two health care plans and a pharmacy concerning Respondent's prescribing of controlled substance medications.
- 5. Board staff conducted a pharmacy survey of major pharmacies in the Tucson area to review Respondent's prescribing of controlled substance medications.
- 6. Board staff also conducted a selected review of twenty-three patient charts for possible quality of care and record-keeping violations by Respondent.
- 7. The Board's outside medical consultants in general criticized Respondent's care and treatment of those patients to whom she prescribed a number of long- and short-acting opioid medications.
- 8. Before prescribing those medications, Respondent often failed to obtain adequate medical histories or perform adequate physical examinations of the patients. Much of Respondent's medical histories came from information provided by the patients themselves. In some cases, Respondent failed to further substantiate actual diagnoses and physical findings with prior medical records. In other cases, Respondent failed to obtain adequate histories of previous drug abuse or monitor for signs of current drug abuse.
- 9. As a result, Respondent may have inappropriately prescribed higher than indicated doses of long- and short-acting opioid medications.
- 10. Often when prescribing those medications, Respondent failed to maintain adequate records on the patients. Her written notes often did not provide sufficient information to support the diagnoses, justify the treatments, accurately document the results, and indicate advice and cautionary warnings provided to the patients.

- 11. At all times, Respondent fully cooperated with the Board's investigation. In addition, Respondent voluntarily obtained the services of an office practice management consultant to evaluate Respondent's office and record-keeping practices. Respondent revised her office and record-keeping practices based upon the consultant's evaluation.
- 12. On November 4, 2002, the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") notified the Board that the DEA had suspended Respondent's Certificate of Registration.
- 13. Accordingly, on November 6, 2002, the Board entered an Interim Order revoking Respondent's dispensing privileges. After the Order was entered, Respondent fully cooperated with the Board in transferring the care of her pain management patients to other local pain management specialists to ensure continuity in their care and treatment.
- 14. On January 29, 2004, Respondent entered into a plea agreement admitting to four felony counts of accessory after the fact in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 3. The plea agreement alleges that Respondent received information that four of her patients had obtained possession of controlled substances from persons other than Respondent by misrepresentation, fraud, forgery, deception or subterfuge in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 843(a)(3), and that Respondent failed to report that information to law enforcement authorities. (A true and correct copy of the executed Plea Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and incorporated hereby this reference.)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter and over Respondent pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401 et seq.
- 2. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(26)(d)(committing a felony, whether or not involving moral turpitude, or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude. In either case, conviction by any court of competent jurisdiction or a plea of no contest is conclusive evidence of the commission.)

3. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(26)(e)(failing or refusing to maintain adequate medical records.) An adequate medical record is a "legible medical record" that contains "at a minimum, sufficient information to identify the patient, support the diagnosis, justify the treatment, accurately document the results, indicate advice and cautionary warnings provided to the patient, and provide sufficient information for another practitioner to assume continuity of the patient's care at any point in the course of treatment." A.R.S. § 31-1401(2).

- 4. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(26)(p)(sanctions imposed by an agency of the federal government, including restricting, suspending, limiting or removing a person from the practice of medicine or restricting that person's ability to obtain financial remuneration.)
- 5. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(26)(q)(any conduct or practice that is or might be harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public.)

<u>ORDER</u>

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and pursuant to the authority granted to the Board by A.R.S. §§ 32-1401 *et seq.* and 41-1092.07(F)(5), IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 1. Respondent shall be issued a Decree of Censure for: (a) failing to maintain adequate medical records; (b) engaging in conduct or practices that were potentially harmful or dangerous to the health of her patients; (c) committing a felony; and (d) having a sanction imposed by an agency of the federal government.
- 2. Respondent shall be placed on Probation for two years from the effective date of this Order to monitor her office management and record-keeping practices. The following terms and conditions shall apply to that period of probation:

A. Within three (3) months of the effective date of this Order, Board staff shall conduct a random chart review to determine the current status of Respondent's office and record-keeping practices. Based upon the results of that chart review, the Board retains jurisdiction to take additional remedial or disciplinary action, including ordering another evaluation of Respondent's office and record-keeping practices by an Office Practice Management Consultant or requiring Respondent to obtain additional CME in medical record-keeping.

- B. Following the initial chart review described above, Board staff or its agents shall conduct periodic chart reviews to evaluate Respondent's office and record-keeping practices. Based upon the results of the periodic chart reviews, the Board retains jurisdiction to take additional remedial or disciplinary action.
- 3. Respondent shall also be placed on Probation for two years from the effective date of when her DEA Certificate is restored to monitor her pain management practices. The following terms and conditions shall apply to that period of probation:
 - A. Before applying for the reinstatement of her DEA Certificate, Respondent shall obtain ten (10) hours of Board staff pre-approved Category 1 CME in the principles and practices of pain management or addiction medicine. Respondent shall provide Board staff with satisfactory proof of attendance. The CME hours shall be in addition to the hours required for the biennial renewal of medical license.
 - B. Board staff or its agents shall commence periodic chart reviews within three (3) months of restoration of her DEA Certificate to evaluate Respondent's prescribing practices and quality of care. Based upon the results of the periodic chart reviews, the Board retains jurisdiction to take additional remedial or disciplinary action.

- 4. The following terms and conditions shall apply to both periods of probation:
- A. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. The declarations must be submitted on or before the 15th of March, June, September and December of each year.
- B. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in Arizona, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.
- C. In the event Respondent should leave Arizona to reside or practice outside the State or for any reason should Respondent stop practicing medicine in Arizona, Respondent shall notify the Executive Director in writing within ten (10) days of departure or return or the dates of non-practice in Arizona. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding thirty (30) days during which Respondent is not engaging in the practice of medicine. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside Arizona or of non-practice within Arizona will not apply to the reduction of the probationary period.
- 5. This Order supercedes and replaces the Board's previous Order dated November 6, 2002 and constitutes the final disposition of case number MD-01-0608.

DATED this 10th day of March, 2004.

ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

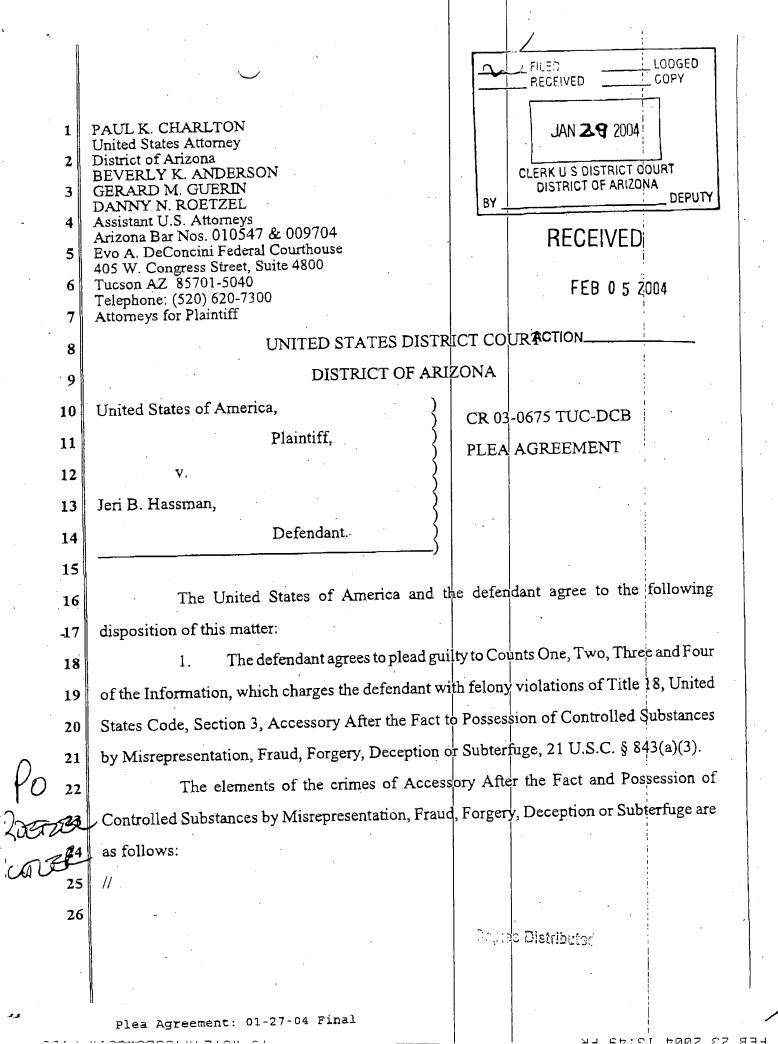
[SEAL]



By: BARRY A. CASSIDY, Ph.D., P.

Executive Director

1	ORIGINAL OF THE FOREGOING FILED this _\omega^m day of _\text{March}_, 2004, with:
3	Arizona Medical Board 9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road Scottsdale, AZ 85258
4	EXECUTED COPY OF THE FOREGOING
5	MAILED BY CERTIFIED MAIL this <u>\oxin</u> day of <u>N\arch</u> , 2004, to:
6 7	Jeri B. Hassman, M.D. Respondent
8	(Address of Record on file with the Board)
9	EXECUTED COPY OF THE FOREGOING MAILED this 10th day of March 2004, to:
10	Dan Cavett, Esq. CAVETT & FULTON, P.C.
11	6035 E. Grant Road Tucson, Arizona 85712-2317
12	Attorneys for Respondent
13 14	A. Bates Butler III, Esq. FENNEMORE CRAIG, P.C. One South Church Ave., Suite 1000
15	Tucson, Arizona 85701-1627 Attorneys for Respondent
16	Stephen A. Wolf, Esq. Assistant Attorney General
17	1275 W. Washington Street, CIV/LES Phoenix, AZ 85007
18	Attorneys for the State of Arizona
19	PILE
20 21	Planning & Operations
22	
23	
24	
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- a) The defendant knowing that an offense against the United States had been committed, to wit: Possession of Controlled Substances by Misrepresentation, Fraud, Forgery, Deception or Subterfuge;
- b) The defendant knowingly received, relieved, comforted or assisted the offender; and
- c) The defendant did so in order to hinder or prevent the offender's apprehension, trial or punishment.
- 2. The defendant understands that the maximum penalties for each of the offenses to which she is pleading are a fine of \$125,000.00, a term of two (2) years, or both, and a period of not more than one (1) year supervised release. Defendant understands that a sentence of not more than five (5) years probation could also be imposed by the Court upon conviction of these crimes.
- 3. The defendant agrees to pay a fine unless the defendant establishes the applicability of the exceptions contained in § 5E1.2(e) of the Sentencing Guidelines.
- 4. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, the defendant shall pay a special assessment of \$100.00 for each count of conviction. The special assessment is due and payable at the time the defendant enters the plea of guilty, but in no event shall be paid later than the time of sentencing unless the defendant is indigent. If the defendant is indigent, the special assessment will be collected according to the provisions of Chapters 227 and 229 of Title 18, United States Code.
- 6. Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C), Fed. R. Crim. P., the government and the defendant stipulate and agree to a sentencing range of 0 to 6 months imprisonment. The defendant may withdraw from the plea agreement if she receives a sentence in excess of 6 months imprisonment.
- 7. Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C), Fed. R. Crim. P., the government and the defendant further stipulate and agree that defendant may recommend any length of term of

 probation to the Court. The government may recommend a five (5) year term of probation to the Court. Should the defendant comply with all conditions of the plea agreement by the date of her sentencing, the government will not seek a term of imprisonment for defendant.

- 8. While not a requirement of the plea agreement, defendant has voluntarily withdrawn her appeal of the Drug Enforcement Administration's ("DEA") administrative proceeding regarding her registration to handle Schedule II, III, IV or V Controlled Substances.
- 9. Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C), Fed. R. Crim. P., the government and the defendant further stipulate and agree that the following terms of any sentence of probation or supervised release may be imposed by the Court: that defendant (1) may reapply for a registration with the DEA to handle Schedule II, III, IV or V Controlled Substances after one year; (2) an appropriate number of hours of continuing medical education in the fields of pain management and addiction treatment and an appropriate number of hours of community service; and (3) not to participate as a provider in the Tricare insurance program.
- 10. Provided defendant complies with the terms of this agreement, the government agrees, at the time of the defendant's sentencing, to dismiss the charges in the Superseding Indictment and to not bring further criminal charges against defendant for any conduct now known to the government related to the allegations in the Superseding Indictment or the Information.
- 11. This agreement is expressly conditioned on the defendant's criminal history falling within Category I of the Sentencing Guidelines. If the defendant's criminal history exceeds Category I, the government reserves its right to withdraw from the plea agreement.
- 12. If the Court, after reviewing this plea agreement, concludes any provision is inappropriate, it may reject the plea agreement, pursuant to Rule 11(c)(5), Fed. R. Crim.

P., giving the defendant, in accordance with Rule 11(d)(2)(A), Fed. R. Crim. P., an opportunity to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.

- any manner restrict the actions of the government in any other district or bind any other United States Attorney's Office or agency of the United States in any civil or administrative proceeding.
- The defendant hereby waives any and all motions, defenses, probable cause determinations, and objections which defendant could assert to the information or to the Court's entry of judgment against the defendant and imposition of sentence upon the defendant consistent with this agreement. The defendant further waives: (1) any right to appeal the Court's entry of judgment against defendant; (2) any right to appeal the imposition of sentence upon defendant under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 (sentence appeals); and (3) any right to collaterally attack defendant's conviction and sentence under Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255. If defendant files a notice of appeal or habeas petition, notwithstanding this agreement, defendant agrees that this case shall, upon motion of the government, be remanded to the district court to determine whether defendant is in breach of this agreement and, if so, to permit the United States to withdraw from the plea agreement.
- by any court in a later proceeding, the government will be free to prosecute the defendant for all charges as to which it has knowledge, and any charges that have been dismissed because of this plea agreement will be automatically reinstated, including the Superseding Indictment in this case. In such event, the defendant waives any objections, motions, or defenses based upon the Speedy Trial Act or the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution as to the delay occasioned by the later proceedings.

- 16. The defendant understands and agrees to cooperate fully with the United States Probation Office in providing:
- (A) All criminal history information, i.e., all criminal convictions as defined under the Sentencing Guidelines.
- (B) All financial information, i.e., present financial assets or liabilities that relate to the ability of the defendant to pay a fine or restitution.
- (C) All history of drug abuse which would warrant a treatment condition as part of sentencing.
- (D) All history of mental illness or conditions which would warrant a treatment condition as part of sentencing.
- 17. Nothing in this plea agreement shall be construed to protect the defendant from civil forfeiture proceedings or prohibit the United States from proceeding with and/or initiating an action for civil forfeiture. Further, this agreement does not preclude the United States from instituting any civil proceedings a may be appropriate now or in the future.

WAIVER OF DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS AND FACTUAL BASIS Waiver of Rights

I have read each of the provisions of the entire plea agreement with the assistance of counsel and understand its provisions. I have discussed the case and my constitutional and other right with my attorney. I understand that by entering my plea of guilty I will be giving up my right to plead not guilty; to trial by jury; to confront, cross-examine, and compel the attendance of witnesses; to present evidence in my defense; to remain silent and refuse to be a witness against myself by asserting my privilege against self-incrimination; all with the assistance of counsel; to be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; and to appeal.

I agree to enter my guilty plea as indicated above on the terms and conditions set forth in this agreement.

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I have been advised by my attorney of the nature of the charge to which I am entering my guilty plea. I have been advised by my attorney of the nature and range of the possible sentence, and that I will not be able to withdraw my guilty plea if I am dissatisfied with the sentence the court imposes.

My guilty plea is not the result of force, threats, assurance or promises other than the promises contained in this agreement. I agree to the provisions of this agreement as a voluntary act on my part, rather than at the direction of or because of the recommendation of any other person, and I agree to be bound according to its provisions. I agree that any Sentencing Guidelines range referred to herein or discussed with my attorney is not binding on the Court and is merely an estimate.

I agree that this written plea agreement contains all the terms and conditions of my plea and that promises made by anyone (including my attorney) that are not contained within this written plea agreement are without force and effect and are null and void.

I am satisfied that my defense attorney has represented me in a competent manner.

I am not now on or under the influence of any drug, medication, liquor, or other intoxicant or depressant, which would impair my ability to fully understand the terms and conditions of this plea agreement.

Factual basis

I further agree that the following facts accurately describe my conduct in connection with the offenses to which I am pleading guilty and that if this matter were to proceed to trial the government could prove those facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

2. On or about April 23, 2001, at or near Tucson, in the District of Arizona, Jeri B. Hassman, knowingly received, relieved, comforted and assisted BL, a patient, in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial or punishment, for unlawfully acquiring and obtaining possession of a controlled substance, to wit: OxyContin, by misrepresentation, fraud, forgery, deception or subterfuge. On April 23, 2001, patient BL, during an office visit with defendant, received a prescription for Dexedrine, 10 milligram tablets, #200. After receipt of said prescription, patient BL informed defendant that he had accepted delivery of a prescription for his recently deceased father, FL, another patient of defendant, in order to possess the prescribed controlled substance, to wit: OxyContin, 40 milligrams. Defendant, upon learning this information from patient BL, did knowingly (a) fail to rescind the prescription for Dexedrine for BL, and (b) fail to report BL's illegal act to any law enforcement authority. The parties stipulate the maximum amount BL could have possessed and ingested of the prescription of FL prior to BL's office visit on April 23, 2001, would have been 960 milligrams.

3. On or about August 3, 2001, at or near Tucson, in the District of Arizona, Jeri B. Hassman, knowingly received, relieved, comforted and assisted SR, a patient, in order to hinder or prevent her apprehension, trial or punishment, for unlawfully acquiring and obtaining possession of a controlled substance, to wit: OxyContin, by misrepresentation, fraud, forgery, deception or subterfuge. On August 3, 2001, during an initial office visit with defendant, patient SR informed defendant that she had taken possession of her deceased husband's prescribed controlled substance, to wit: OxyContin, and ingested said controlled substance. Defendant, upon learning this information from patient SR, did knowingly (a) accept SR as a patient and treat SR, and (b) fail to report SR's illegal act to any law enforcement authority.

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1/27/04 Date

A. BATES BUTLER III Attorney for Defendant

that the guilty plea is entered in accordance with all the requirements of Rule 11, Fed. R.

Crim. P.

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GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL

I have reviewed this matter and the plea agreement. I agree on behalf of the United States that the terms and conditions set forth are appropriate and are in the best interests of justice.

PAUL K. CHARLTON United States Attorney District of Arizona

DANNY N. ROETZEL Assistant U.S. Attorney